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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached two sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 2. In each of these figures, reference character 10 has been added in accordance with the Examiner's requirement.

No new matter has been entered.

Attachment: Two Replacement Drawing Sheets

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement by return of the form PTO-1449, and for the acknowledgment of Applicants' claim for priority and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents in the Official Action. Applicants further gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 2 and 6. Upon entry of the present paper, claims 1-11 will remain pending for consideration by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings, requiring the addition of reference character 10 to Figs. 1 and 2. In compliance with the Examiner's requirement. Applicants submit herewith replacement sheets for Figs. 1 and 2, and thus respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-5 and 7-11, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,519,096 to NOMURA (commonly assigned to PENTAX Corporation), finding that this reference teaches all of the limitations of these claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection, and submits that the applied NOMURA reference (as well as the other references of record) is markedly different from the present claimed invention. Specifically, with respect to independent claims 1 and 11, NOMURA fails to teach or suggest at least that a rear end portion of a cam groove is open at a rear end surface of the cam ring to serve as (or to be formed as) an accommodation section. This feature is described, *inter alia*, at page 41, lines 5-15 and shown, *inter alia*, in Figs. 6 and 19 of the present application. Such a claimed configuration allows the axial length of the cam ring (and thus the profile of the camera) to be

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reduced.

To the contrary, the cam grooves C1, C2 of NOMURA have open insertion ends C1e, C2e at the *front* end portion of the cam ring 15 (*i.e.*, opposite the accommodation position), as shown *inter alia*, in Fig. 8 of NOMURA. It is thus respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention is patentably distinct from NOMURA, and Applicants thus respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of dependent claims 3-5 and 7-10, Applicants submit that these claims are dependent from allowable independent claim 1, which is allowable for at least the reasons discussed *supra*. Thus, these dependent claims are also allowable for at least the reasons discussed *supra*. Further, all dependent claims set forth a further combination of elements neither taught nor disclosed by any of the applied references. It is thus respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw all rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Absent a disclosure in a single reference of each and every element cited in a claim, a *prima facie* case of anticipation cannot be made under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Since the applied reference fails to disclose each and every element recited in independent claims 1 and 11 these claims, and the claims dependent from claim 1, are not anticipated thereby. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of all rejected claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Applicants thus respectfully submit that each and every pending claim in the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections, and allowance of all pending claims in the present application.

COMMENTS ON STATEMENTS OF REASONS FOR THE INDICATION OF ALLOWABLE
SUBJECT MATTER

In response to the Statement of Reasons for the Indication of Allowable Subject Matter and in response to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance, mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on July 27, 2004, along with the above-noted Official Action, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for patentability of allowable claims 2 and 6. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indications that certain identified features are not disclosed by the prior art references, as noted by the Examiner, Applicants further wish to clarify that each of the independent claims in the present application recites a particular combination of features, and the basis for patentability of each of these claims is further based on the particular totality of the features recited therein. The dependent claims set forth additional basis for their patentability in accordance with their recited limitations as well as in accordance with the particular limitations of the respective base claims.

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone, or in any proper combination thereof, discloses or suggests the present invention, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Should there be any questions regarding this paper or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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